

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A method for integrating use of a portable image capture device into a workflow process, the method comprising:

initiating utilization of a portable image capture device with a workflow process, the workflow process including a template having at least one predetermined point at which data input, including captured image data, is expected;

directing collection of the data input by the portable image capture device;
and

integrating the collected data input in the workflow process by automatically associating the collected data with the template, thereby generating an output document.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein initiating utilization further comprises selecting a template for the workflow process in the portable image capture device.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein directing collection further comprises prompting for performance of an image capture at the at least one predetermined point in the template.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein directing collection further comprises prompting for entering of any voice data and text data at the at least one predetermined point in the template.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein integrating the collected data input further comprises inserting the image captured and the voice or text data input at the at least one predetermined point of the template.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein inserting any voice data further comprises transcribing voice data to text data.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising providing the document for a next step in the workflow process.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein initiating utilization further comprises selecting a workflow activity for the workflow process in the portable image capture device, the workflow activity associated by an identifier with a document template, the template identifier having an associated set of input identifiers for data input.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein directing collection further comprises prompting for performance of an image capture at the at least one predetermined point.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein directing collection further comprises prompting for entering of any voice data and text data at the at least one predetermined point.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein integrating the collected data input further comprises associating the set of input identifiers for the selected workflow activity with the image captured and the voice or text data input.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein inserting any voice data further comprises transcribing voice data to text data.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising providing the set of input identifiers for a next step in the workflow process.

14. A system for automated integration of image acquisition and incorporation into a workflow process, the system comprising:

a computer system for performing a workflow process, the workflow process including a template having at least one predetermined point at which data input, including captured image data, is expected; and

a portable image capture device capable of at least digital image capture, the portable image capture device directing collection of the data input and integrating the collected data input into the workflow process by automatically

associating the collected data with the template, thereby generating an output document.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the portable image capture device directs collection by prompting for performance of an image capture at the at least one predetermined point.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the portable image capture device further directs collection by prompting for entering of any voice data and text data at the at least one predetermined point.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein inserting any voice data further comprises transcribing voice data to text data.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein the portable image capture device integrates collected data input by inserting the image captured and the voice or text data input at the at least one predetermined point of a document.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the portable image capture device further provides the document to the computer system for a next step in the workflow process.

20. The system of claim 16 wherein the portable image capture device integrates collected data input by associating a set of input identifiers for a selected workflow activity with the image captured and the voice or text data input.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the portable image capture device provides the set of input identifiers, the collected data input, the template identifier to the computer system for a next step in the workflow process.

22. A portable image capture device containing program instructions on a computer readable medium for automation of image integration into a workflow process, the program instructions comprising:

directing collection of data input of at least captured image data for a workflow process, the workflow process including a template having at least one predetermined point at which the at least captured image data, is expected; and

integrating the collected data input into the workflow process by automatically associating the collected data with the template, thereby generating an output document.

23. The portable image capture device of claim 22 wherein directing collection further comprises prompting for entering of any voice data and text data at the at least one predetermined point.

24. The portable image capture device of claim 23 wherein integrating the collected data input further comprises inserting the at least captured image data and the voice or text data input at the at least one predetermined point of a document.

25. The portable image capture device of claim 23 wherein integrating the collected data input further comprises associating a set of input identifiers for a selected workflow activity with the at least captured image data and the voice or text data input.